CLAIMS

1. A method of configuring a product, where the product is to be assembled from a plurality of components, each component being available in at least one variant, the method comprising the steps of

presenting to a user, via a user interface, a first plurality of available variants of a first one of said plurality of components;

receiving from a user an indication of a first variant selected from the first plurality of variants;

characterised in that the method further comprises the steps of

receiving inventory data from an inventory management system, the inventory data indicating an available subset of the first plurality of available variants as being in stock;

indicating to the user, via the user interface, the first subset of the first plurality of available variants as being selectable.

2. The method according to claim 1, characterised in that the step of presenting the first plurality of variants further comprises the step of limiting the first plurality of variants presented to the user to the first subset of available variants.

3. The method according to any one of the claims 1 and 2, characterised in that the method further comprises the steps of

presenting to the user, via the user interface, a second plurality of variants of a second one of said plurality of components;

receiving from the user an indication of a second variant selected from the second plurality of variants;

presenting to the user via the user interface a graphical representation of the first selected variant of the first component in a predetermined relationship to the second selected variant of the second component.

4. The method according to any one of the claims 2 and 3, characterised in that the method further comprises the step of graphically animating the positioning of the second variant of the second component in the predetermined relationship to the first variant of the first component.

5. The method according to any one of the claims 2 through 4, characterised in that the method further comprises the step of interactively animating the positioning of the second variant of the second component in the predetermined relationship to the first variant of the first component, where the interactively animated assembly is controlled by user commands.

6. The method according to any one of the claims 1 through 5, characterised in that the method further comprises the step of transmitting order information to a production management system, the order information including configuration data identifying the first variant of the first component and the second variant of the second component.

7. The method according to any one of the claims 1 through 6, characterised in that the method further com-

prises the step of transmitting an information signal to the inventory management system, the information signal representing an identification of the selected variants.

8. A system for customising a product, where the product is assembled from a plurality of components, each component being available in at least one variant, the system comprising

first display means adapted to present a first plurality of variants of a first one of said plurality of components;

first input means adapted to receive an indication of a first variant selected from the first plurality of variants;

characterised in that the system further comprises

second display means adapted to indicate a first subset of the first plurality of variants as selectable, where the first subset of variants is identified by a set of inventory data received from an inventory management system.

9. The system according to claim 8, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the first display means is adapted to limit the presentation of the first plurality of variants to the first subset of variants.

10. The system according to any one of the claims 8 and 9, characterised in that the system further comprises

third display means adapted to present a second plurality of variants of a second one of said plurality of components;

second input means adapted to receive an indication of a second variant selected from the second plurality of variants;

third display means adapted to present a graphical representation of the first selected variant of the first component in a predetermined relationship to the second selected variant of the second component.

11. The system according to claim 10, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the system further comprises first processing means adapted to generate a graphical animation of the positioning of the second variant of the second component in the predetermined relationship to the first variant of the first component.

12. The system according to claim 11, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the system further comprises second input means adapted to receive user commands for controlling the graphical animation.

13. The system according to any one of the claims 10 through 12, characterised in that the graphical representation of the first variant of the first component in the predetermined relationship to the second variant of the second component is a three-dimensional rendering of the first variant of the first component in the predetermined relationship to the second variant of the second component.

14. The system according to any one of the claims 8 through 13, characterised in that the system further comprises transmitting means adapted to transmit order information to a production management system, the order information including configuration data identifying the

first variant of the first component and the second variant of the second component.

15. The system according to any one of the claims 8 through 14, characterised in that the system further comprises transmitting means adapted to transmit an information signal to the inventory management system, the information signal including an identification of the selected variants.

16. Use of a method according to any one of the claims 1 through 7 for customising a medical application device.

17. A computer program comprising program code means for performing all the steps of any one of the claims 1 through 7 when said program is run on a computer.

18. A computer program product comprising program code means stored on a computer readable medium for performing a method of any one of the claims 1 through 7 when said computer program product is run on a computer.

19. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising program code means for performing all the steps of any one of the claims 1 through 7 when said program is run on a computer.
